Scheme to integrate rivers

†4374. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme to integrate the rivers of the country and conservation of their water in order to escape from the calamity like floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to save Bihar from the losses caused by floods of water coming from Nepal every year;

(d) whether Government have talked with the Government of Nepal in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1980, the Ministry of Water Resources, then known as the Ministry of Irrigation, formulated a National Perspective Plan for integrated water resources development through inter-linkages of several southern based Peninsular rivers and the Himalayan rivers which *inter alia* envisages flood control benefit. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) established by the Government of India in 1982 to *inter-alia* carryout water balance and feasibility studies has identified 30 links under National Perspective for preparation of Feasibility Report and has completed Feasibility Report of 6 links.

(c) to (e) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The Central Government renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As a non-structural measure of flood management, a scheme namely, "Flood forecasting & Warning System on rivers common to India and Nepal" is in operation since 1989 for exchange of hydrological and meteorological data from Nepal to India for flood forecasts.

Further the discussions have been conducted with Nepal on minimizing the effects of floods from rivers originating from Nepal in this regard a joint Inception Report has been finalised for Sapra Koshi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage cum-diversion Scheme paving the way for setting up of Joint Project Officer and preparation of Joint Detailed Project Report having *inter-alia* flood control benefits for Bihar.

In additon, in order to prevent spilling of flood waters from Lalbakeya, Bagmati, Khando and Kamla rivers from Nepal side into Bihar, both sides have agreed to extend the embankments in no man's land and work on Lalbakeya is nearing completion.

For dealing with the problems of inundation in the vicinity of India-Nepal border, a Standing Committee on Inundation Problems between India and Nepal is also functioning since 1986. So far, twelve meetings have been held in which various issues have been sorted out. Apart from this, the Government of India has set up High Level Committees on Kosi and Gandak rivers to inspect and recommend measures to protect the banks of the two rivers in and around Kosi and Gandak barrages from erosion.

In order to have inter-action at higher level, a Joint Committee on Water Resources headed by the respective Water Resources Secretaries of both the countries has also been established to oversee the entire gamut of India-Nepal co-operation in the Water Resources Sector.

Recently, during March,2002, Prime Ministers of India and Nepal met in Delhi and amongst many other issues, matters concerning cooperation in the field of water resources were discussed which included matters to mitigate the adverse affects of floods from rivers flowing from Nepal.